(ख) क्या इसके उत्पादन को जो कि निरन्तर गिरता जा रहा है प्रोत्साहित करने की बजाय इसके आयात को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है;

(ग) 1996-97 और 1997-98 के वर्षों में 163 लाख मीट्रिक टन यूरिया का लक्ष्य किस तरह प्राप्त किया गया था; और

(घ) देश में इसकी बढ़ती हुई मांग को किस प्रकार पूरा किया गया है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला): (क) से (घ) विगत दशक में, यूरिया के उत्पादन में लगभग 57% की वृद्धि हुई है। 1996-97 में यूरिया का उत्पादन 156.2 लाख टन था जबकि लक्ष्य 162.73 लाख टन था। 1997-98 के दौरान 185-95 लाख टन यूरिया का उत्पादन हुआ था जबकि लक्ष्य 175 लाख टन था। स्वदेशी उपलब्धता तथा मांग के बीच के अन्तर को आयात द्वारा पूरा किया जाता है।

बिहार में निर्मली से भपटियाही तक रेल लाइन बिछाया जाना

*560. **श्री राम देव भण्डारी:**

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बिहार में निर्मली से भपटियाही तक रेल लाइन के निर्माण की मांग उत्तरी बिहार के संसद सदस्यों द्वारा संसद तथा संसद के बाहर लगातार की जाती रही है;

(ख) क्या यह रेल लाइन उत्तरी बिहार के कई जिलों को आपस में जोड़ती है तथा यह यातायात के लिए भी अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार इस रेल लाइन का निर्माण करायेगी, यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की जा रही है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री नीतिश कुमार): (क) और (ख) जी हां।

(ग) इस संबंध में, प्रस्तावित कोसी पुल के लिए विस्तृत जांच और अंतिम स्थान निर्धारण सर्वेक्षण शुरू कर दिया गया है। सर्वेक्षण रिपोर्ट उपलब्ध हो जाने के बाद परियोजना पर आगे विचार करना संभव होगा।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Consumption of Urea in Utter Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and West Bengal

4127. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption of urea in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) the production of urea in the production units (both public and private) in the above States during the above period; and

(c) the freight, subsidy for transportation of urea to the urea-deficit States among the above States during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) Consolidated information on consumption, production and estimated equated frieght subsidy for transportation of indigenous urea to the states in question is tabulated below:

State	Consumption—(LMT)-			-Production (LMT)-			-Freight Subsidy (Rs Crores)-		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Uttar Pradesh	42.63	44.43	46.74	41.46	46.62	60.85	127.83	143.16	155.90
Maharashtra	15.04	16.16	16.79	17.43	14.82	17.19	59.95	60.77	65.04
Andhra Pradesh	18.28	19.32	16.53	8.15	7.86	7.91	52.56	51.60	52.17
Bihar	10.97	12.92	12.99	2.81	3.02	2.49	25.27	35.68	37.17
Punjab	19.97	18.77	19.92	9.04	7.33	9.74	53.65	53.80	57.21
West Bengal	9.49	9.62	10.22	0.76	0.45	0.03	20.27	26.87	31.13

Information regarding the transportation cost component of the handling charges paid to handling agencies in respect of the qualities of imported urea moved to these states from different ports has not been segregated.

Guidelines Regarding Appointment of Distributors/Dealers for Fertilisers

4128. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines regarding appointment of distributors/dealers for fertilisers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DTR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) The fertiliser manufacturing Central Public Sector Companies (CPSUs)/Cooperatives have been appointing dealers/distributors by following the criteria and procedures laid down by them. The Government had, however, in September '78 issued instructions to CPSUs that they would reserve 25% of all future appointment of dealers for fertilisers for Scheduled Casts (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Proposal to Scrap the Pricing Regime For Fertilizer

4129. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to scrap the cosy, cost-plus retention pricing regime for the fertilizer producers and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when it is proposed to be scrapped and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) and (b) The recommendations of the High Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee in regard to an alternative scheme for subsidisation of urea are under the consideration of the Government.

Revaluation of vendor selection process of Indo-Oman Project

4130. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item "Indo-Oman rejects UHDE's lower offer" published in the "Financial Express" dated the 22nd June, 1998;

(b) if yes, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether a number of Members of Parliament have written to the Minister seeking re-evaluation of the vendor selection process for the Indo-Oman fertilizer project; and

(d) the reason for ignoring the demand for re-evaluation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) All operational decisions regarding the Oman India Fertilizer Project (OIFP), in which RCF and KRIBHCO together and Oman Oil Company are equal partners, have been taken by the Joint Management Committee (JMC) of the project, which had equal representation from the Indian and Omani sides. The JMC has been replaced by the Board of Directors since incorporation of the Oman India Fertilizer Company (OMIFCO) in February, 1998. The board of OMIFCO has not considered it appropriate to entertain the revised offer after the finalisation of the exercise of bid evaluation and notification of the preferred bidder.